Research project on instant tea

1097. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government undertook a Research Project on Instant Tea through Tokolai Tea Research Centre in Assam;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof;

(c) what was the total amount spent on the project; and

(d) what was the total period of time taken for the completion of the Research Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Methodology for manufactures of Instant tea (both hot and cold soluble) has successfully been developed at the pilot plant stage.

(c) Approximately Rs. 34 lakhs has been spent on the project.

(d) Little over 12 years.

Difficulties of Indian tea exports

1098. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian tea exporters experienced difficulties in obtaining bonafide technical and trade samples of tea from foreign countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has created difficulties to the tea exporters for they could not study the tea blends in overseas tea pockets; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSHI): (a) to (c) To overcome these difficulties, Government has amended the Open General Licence so as to enable importation of bonafide technical and trade samples of tea supplied free of charge not exceeding Rs. 1,000/- c.i.f. value, in one consignment, on the recommendation of the Tea Board.

Vacancies of judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court

1099. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of vacancies of Judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court:

(b) since when these posts have been lying vacant; and

(c) what steps are being taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There are 6 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

(b) These posts fell vacant on the following dates:—

Permanent Judges	Additional Judges
6.5.88	26.11.82
1.7.88	29.11.82
26.10.88	
10.11.88	

(c) Action has been taken to fill up these vacancies in consultation with the State authorities.

Handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh

1100. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received any memorandum/representation from

all party MLA's and the Chairman of APCO (A.P.) regarding the problems of textile workers and handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the representation memorandum and the action already taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

Statement

The memorandum has raised some points relating to the cost handicap of handloom sector *vis-a-vis* the mills and powerloom sector, increase in the prices of cotton yarn and other raw materials, violation of the Handloom Reservation Order by the powerloom sector, review of the Textile Policy of 1985, fulfilment of the hank yarn obligation and grave situation of the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh, etc. and has sought a review on them.

The Textile Policy of 1985 has enunciated a number of steps to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to ensure higher earnings for the handloom weavers. Action had been taken to implement all these steps viz., development of handlooms through cooperatives and corporations, modernisation of looms, supply of inputs through NHDC, production of mixed and blended fabrics under Susman Cloth Scheme, reservation of 22 items for exclusive production by handlooms, design support and technological inputs to improve the competitiveness of handloom products, implementation of Thrift Fund Scheme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, etc. In addition, certain fiscal concessions are also extended to the handloom sector to enable it to compete with the products of mills and powerlooms. Government have also taken various steps to ensure availability of yarn to the handloom sector at reasonable prices and are also keeping a watch on the yarn price situation. The Central Government is also implementing a number of schemes for the development of handloom sector in all the States including Andhra Pradesh. Apart from the enforcement machinary of the Central Government to implement the Handloom Reservation Act, assistance has been provided to Andhra Pradesh Government to set up their own enforcement machinery.

Funds for modernisation of police communication system in Andhra Pradesh

1101. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central funds made available to Andhra Pradesh Government towards the development/modernisation of police communications in that State during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount during 1989-90;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Central funds made available to the Government of Andhra Pradesh as per their proposals for the development of police communications in that State under the scheme of modernisation of State police forces during the last three years are indicated below:—

Year	Amount
	Rs. in lakhs
1986-87	22.00
1987-88	21.45
1988-89	21.45

(b) The proposal for the release of funds under the scheme for the year 1989-90 has not so far been received from the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.